

ALUMNI
20 Jan 99
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FEATURE

Our Entertainment Editor, George Vajna wades through the best and worst of 1998 with his fearless and acerbic comments. **page 7**

Mike Bullard has fought his way to the top in Canada's Late Night television race. Yaron Blanc interviews the countries best known funny man. **page 8**

NEWS

Dominion Stores will open a big box store at Market Square. How will that effect other retailers, especially the St. Lawrence Market? Allan Stokell went around to ask. **page 3**

VARSITY

Did someone say academic dishonesty? Our own Director of Academic Affairs, Stephen Flett, explores all the options. **page 3**

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A few members of the Dialog Club

1998: A year to remember

by Allan Stokell

What was your favourite moment in the year just past? Was it seeing Bill Gates with pie all over his face? How about the

Monica-gate affair?

Those visiting the Dialog office have been careful not to comment on the burgeoning clutter on the desks. We have been making a collection of news clippings both in hard copy and electronic for this our first issue of 1999.

From the introduction of the new Bug, to the Diet Dr Pepper Virus, everyone seems to have had a favourite moment in time in 1998.

John Holme of Salisbury, England thought he was going to have a good time. He is an evangelist and, rather than preaching on the usual street corner, he thought he'd try something new. He rented a para-glider so he could preach to the sinners on the ground. "I thought if they heard a voice booming from the sky, they would think it was God," he said.

In the United Arab Emirates, scientists

have been using artificial insemination to breed a cross between a camel and a llama. They haven't said if it will be called a llamel or a cama.

Some politicians have been suffering from a case of foot in mouth disease. Proving he only opens his mouth to change feet, Philippine President Joseph Estrada referring to the woes of President Bill Clinton said: "Some of his women complained, in my case, no one has complained."

In the fast food field, Burger King is the first burger chain to merge in the information highway. It's Manhattan branch offers 20 minutes free on the Internet when you spent \$5.00 or more. Hear that Aramark?

Louis Galland isn't a household name...yet. This French chef has figured out how to spice up the menu of his two star rated restaurant in the French Alps. His special Viagra® Menu smoothes everything in a sauce made with the illegal drug, fig vinegar and fine herbs.

Editors of Boating Magazine were surprised in 1998 when a survey showed

that only 13% of respondents would jump overboard to save a spouse. 25% said they would jump over to save their hat.

This was the year Canadians came in second in lovemaking. Durex® surveyed 10,000 sexually active men and women around the globe and discovered Canadians spend an average 23 minutes in a lovemaking session compared with Americans who claim 28 minutes. In Phuket, Thailand they only take 10 minutes.

The mayor of North Platte, Nebraska promised to walk "Naked" down the main street of town if he raised \$5,000 for the Humane Society. There was much interest raised until his wife told the press that Naked was the name of his dog.

Speaking of pets... In Cornwall, England (where else?), a cemetery has announced that for £5, they will bury your dead Tamagotchi.

And finally...what is the most popular last meal? Well according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, most condemned men living on death row choose a hamburger with all the trimming washed down with a Coke®. See more on **page 6**.



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brown, GEORGE

The empty mall problem solved

Big box Dominion for Market Square

by Allan Stokell

What do you do if you hold a mall and nobody comes? That has been the problem from almost day one at Market Square condominium residence just 2 blocks from the St James campus.

Originally built by Olympia and York, who went on to find bankruptcy in the massive London docks area in Britain, the project was hailed as "Perhaps the most attractive and sensitive urban projects."

Once full of restaurants, shops and an interesting centre mall book shop, the mall today is a wash in 'For Lease' signs and homeless people. Only a rogue shoe repair shop and a movie theatre have managed to survive in the cavernous interior.

Wait until March of this year. Mall management has announced a new tenant for the first floor. Dominion stores will open a food store in direct competition with the city-owned historic St. Lawrence Market across the road and the Weston owned Loblaws superstore at Lakeshore Boulevard.

Expect a battle royale between retailers, as Dominion appears to have picked up a space to die for and Loblaw's is stuck an uncomfortable walk south.

St. Lawrence Market officials could not be reached for comment, but it appears the local retailers have little to fear. The owner of the shoe repair shop in Market Square believes that he will simply be moved and remain part of the community. Michael Granet of Vital Planet Health Shop sees it as a positive move that will bring more shoppers into the neighbourhood.



A View From The Castle

by Charmaine Mayes

he view is a touch optimistic this month. I don't know why. Maybe it's the season, maybe I'm loopy from sleep deprivation, but lately I weep over sappy long distance commercials.

Not much else is going on around here these days, so... Lemme ask you a question. Have you ever visited the Casa Loma Student's Lounge? I'm actually writing my column from the lounge this afternoon. I don't usually spend any time in here, so, to be completely fair, I decided to check it out. I gotta tell you, when there's no one in it, this lounge looks great, much improved over last year. When there's a special event going on in here, the room can be made up to look quite impressive. When there are students in here, the place looks like a garbage dump, and I don't understand why.

We have a really cool Student Lounge, and it's nice that so many students make use of it, and take advantage of the opportunity to socialize and relax. And I think it's really fab that so many of you pick up after yourselves, and use the facilities responsibly, and those of you who do may skip the rest of my column, and read Stephen's DAAlog. What I have to say now is for those of you who don't.

We've got pool tables, but someone is stealing the cues. We've got a ping-pong table, someone stole the paddles, we got brand new table and chairs, and

for gosh sakes, someone stole a table!

I also don't understand all the trash I see lying around. Some of you spend more time in the lounge than you do in your own homes. Would you treat your home like that? Good heavens people! Is it too much to ask that you pick up your garbage?

And the television seems to be a subject of controversy as well, or at least, what is playing. I appreciate that a great many of the students like to watch the music channels, and the movie channels, but the Student Association pays for a lot of channels, and I don't think it's unreasonable for a student to request that they change them every once in a while..

This is our lounge. Any damage you do to it, anything you steal from it, is your loss. So if the pool cues get stolen, you can't play pool, ping-pong, paddles, likewise, tables, the same. If you break the futsal table by picking it up and dropping it, or damage the pool table by kicking it, or cover the floor with garbage, you'll have a Student Lounge with no pool table, no ping pong, no foosball, and covered in garbage, and the only channels on the television will be CBC and Rogers 10. Or maybe you just won't have a Student Lounge.

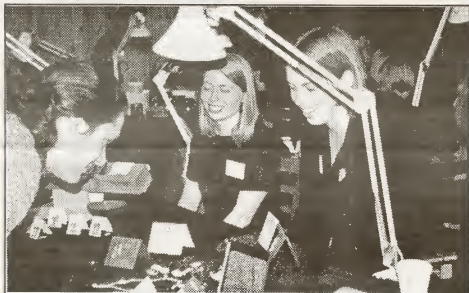
We've got pool tables, but someone is stealing the cues. We've got a ping-pong table, someone stole the paddles, we got brand new table and chairs, and

met with a full range of options, including suspension or **EXPULSION**.

So it looks like they're very serious about this. You should be too. This is your future we're talking about here. There's actually a lot more on the whole process of dealing with academic dishonesty for those who are interested. If anyone has any comments on this column, feel free to drop

me a line. I may follow up on this issue with another column on the subject later on.

I hope this is useful to you. If you have any questions, feel free to drop to see me at the Casa Loma SA office, send me an e-mail at sflett@gbrownc.on.ca, or leave me a voice-mail at 415-2900 #83221.



No jewel went unturned at the recent Jewellery Sale at the Casa Loma campus

DAalog

Version 5.0 -

A semi-regular column on Academic Affairs by Stephen Flett, your DAA (Director of Academic Affairs) at the Student Association. Or whatever random thoughts are meandering through Steve's head.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Okay folks, listen up. This column's going to be dealing with academic dishonesty. A.K.A. lying, cheating, falsification, plagiarism, fudging the truth, et cetera. If you've never, ever even dreamt of the remotest possibility that you might consider a time when you just might be forced to be less than completely honest with your assignments and tests, well then, congratulations! You probably don't need to read this. For the rest us, better read on.

Here are some of the GBC policies on this cheating stuff. These are from the condensed copy of the Code of Student Conduct - Academic, as found in the Source handbook.

“Students WILL NOT:

* Copy from another student's paper

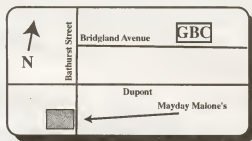
- * Use materials when writing a test that are not authorized
- * Collaborate with another student during a test
- * Submit for credit any academic work for which credit has already been obtained
- * Plagiarize by quoting directly from a written source as if the words were their own
- * Plagiarize by submitting work done by someone else as if it were their own
- * Obtain from, or give to, another student unauthorized assistance in any course work or examination
- * Falsify or modify any examination paper, record or report
- * Take a test for another student (or permit another student to take a test for them)
- * Attempt to bribe a professor
- * Use, buy or sell, or solicit any paper, test or exam
- * Engage in any other conduct which misrepresents their academic performance"

The Code of Conduct spells out that the MINIMUM consequence for these actions will be a mark of ZERO for the material. Serious transgressions and repeated incidents of academic dishonesty may be

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The student community newspaper of
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Editorial office:
Room 159A
St. James Campus
200 King Street East
Toronto Ontario
M5A 3W8

(416) 415-2710
FAX: (416) 415-2491

Casa Loma Office:
Room 263

Allan Stokell
Editor-in-Chief
allan.dialog@mailexcite.com

Amy Kim
Student Adviser
armykim@rocketmail.com

Jerry Grymek
Advertising Manager
jerry.ads@mailexcite.com

Monique Kavanagh
Student Services Manager
mkanavan@gbrown.on.ca

Roxanne Chin-Choy
Office Manager
daydreamer20@lycosmail.com
smallsparrow@mailexcite.com

Margaret Sin
Casa Loma Campus
blueocean21@hotmail.com

Gabrielle Lasporte
Artist

Gordon Holder
Malcolm Stoddard
Technical Advisers

Marie Battaglia
Layout

George Vajna
Entertainment Editor

Stephen Flett
J. McGovern
Roxanne Chin-Choi
Martin Samuels
Yaron Blanc
Angela Pacienza
Charmaine Mayes
Janet Morrison
George Vajna
Edan Scimé Stokell
Contributors



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Student Association
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When you drink - THINK!

by Roxanne Chin-Choi

alcoholism is a facet of the darker side of drinking. Alcoholism could be loosely defined as a biological (some studies have proven if parents, for example, are alcoholics - it is a possibility their children could also become alcoholics) and physiological disorder or substance abuse. How may one become an alcoholic? There are, perhaps, an infinite number of reasons for people becoming alcoholics. However, for the purposes of this article four reasons will be briefly addressed.

Our parents are our first role models in life. As adolescents we may try to emulate, mimic and copy their habits and mannerisms. In particular, some adolescents go as far as following their parents' drinking patterns. However, if parents do not drink responsibly or sit down with their children about alcohol, it may turn into an issue to be dealt sooner than the adolescent or their parents expected.

Others may simply be curious about how alcohol tastes and why so many people drink alcohol. However, if one drinks in ignorance, for example drinking more than one type of alcohol when it is advised not to drink more than one kind of alcoholic beverage at a time; lack of experience may lead to something more deadly.

It is a common issue to cope with for all teenagers at one point or another: peer

pressure. If one wants to desperately to fit in with their friends or believe if one doesn't drink their friends will no longer hang out with them. This fear of rejection may lead to excessive consumption of alcohol.

It also seems to be common in our society to try to drink our problems away. Although one might argue it is common sense that tells us the problem will still be there after one sobs up, continually drowning one's sorrows in alcohol leads to an increase in alcohol tolerance and thus more drinking is required to forget one's problems. In the effort to ignore their concerns, they create one more problem: they may have become an alcoholic.

If one does drink as a social drinker, or even an alcoholic, it is important to realize the effects of the drug. Alcohol seems to help people let go of their inhibitions and act as a stimulant. However, alcohol is a depressant and slows down our motor skills. Other "signals" of a person drinking are: blood shot eyes, feeling sleepy after an excessive amount of liquor, being unable to walk in a straight line, tremors and slurred speech. These are but a few examples.

If someone you know is an alcoholic or if you think you have a drinking problem, there are places to go to for help. Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Alateen are three. These organizations can help and support the person through the process of detoxification.

However, prevention is probably the preferred method of helping people to be aware. Be informed so that alcohol does not become a "problem". If someone does have a drinking problem however, intervention or confrontation may be necessary.

Alcoholism is a relevant social issue that has tremendous impact and serious consequences for the people it touches. Some believe being an alcoholic may lead to your child becoming an alcoholic. It may be the loss of the driver's license or in a worse case scenario the loss of a life. Measures are being taken to help. Advertisements to be responsible when drinking are seen on the television, in LCBO stores, in the newspaper,

at sporting events and on the radio. Do when they acknowledge the fact that alcoholics, can go to support groups, know someone will be there to help become sober. Children are being educated about alcoholism and the effects of it with the hope it will be the information needed to make a "smart" decision comes to drinking.

Prevention, intervention and treatment are important measures to combat alcoholism. Drink responsibly the next time you are out. You may be saving your life and the lives of others.

by George Vajna, Dialog
Entertainment Editor

THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR

1. Antz
2. Apt Pupil
3. Babe, Pig In The City
4. Blade
5. A Bugs Life
6. Cube
7. Enemy Of The State
8. The Last Days Of Disco
9. Love And Death On Long Island
10. The Negotiator
11. Out Of Sight
12. A Perfect Murder
13. Pleasantville
14. Ronin
15. Saving Private Ryan
16. A Simple Plan
17. The Truman Show
18. Velvet Goldmine
19. Wild Things
20. Your Friends And Neighbours

THE WORST FILMS OF THE YEAR

1. An American Werewolf In Paris
2. Armageddon
3. The Avengers
4. 54
5. Holy Man
6. Knock-Off
7. Lethal Weapon 4
8. Psycho
9. Six Days, Seven Nights
10. Snake Eyes

THE BEST TELEVISION SHOWS OF THE YEAR

1. Buffy The Vampire Slayer
2. Felicity
3. Frasier
4. Friends
5. The Larry Sanders Show
6. Law And Order
7. The Simpson's
8. That 70's Show
9. Whose Line Is It Anyway?
10. The X-Files

THE WORST TELEVISION SHOWS OF THE YEAR

1. Baywatch
2. Beverly Hills 90210

3. Home Improvement
4. Party Of Five
5. Veronica's Closet

THE BEST ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

1. Tom Cochrane - Xray Surgery
2. Jesse Cook - Vertigo
3. Elvis Costello And Burt Bacharach - Painted From Memory
4. Fastball - All The Pain Mon Can Buy
5. Garbage - Version 2.0
6. Lauryn Hill - The Miseducation Of Lauryn Hill
7. Lenny Kravitz - 5
8. Madonna - Ray Of Light
9. Natalie Merchant - Ophelia
10. Monica - The Boy Is Mine
11. Alanis Morissette - 1998
12. Page

- And
Plant -
Walking Into Clarksdale
13. Prozac - Hot Show
14. Pulp - This Is Hardcore
15. Rammstein - Sehnsucht
16. Chris Rea - The Blue Cafe
17. Spacehog - The Chinese Album
18. Tricky - Angels With Dirty Faces

Best Pubs

Never let the crusty old editor of a college newspaper list his selection of best pubs, you might just get what you asked for. Pubs don't have loud music. Pubs are for talking with your friends and drinking good beer. Don't confuse pubs with bars or nightclubs. Pubs are hybrid English Public Houses and as such should be known for their excellent selection and or condition of beers.

**C'est What, 67 Front Street East
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Not only is this one of the best pubs in Toronto, it may be among the best in North America. They brew their own beer, solidly support Ontario's microbreweries and don't sell Canadian. At any one time they might be serving Hemp ale, Pumpkin ale, or any number of specialty brews. Not to be missed. They offer live entertainment most evenings, but have the good taste to put it in another room with 2 foot thick walls.

The Feathers, 962 Kingston Road, 694-0443

A bit out of the way (Upper Beaches) but worth the trip for any Eastender. This is not your fake English pub, this is the real thing. It's full of Brits, they play darts, watch telly, argue and drink Real Ale (a natural product, hand pumped, no CO₂ added. Simon Cowe, who also brews for C'est What is the resident brewer.

They serve hearty English food too, so bring an appetite for more than just good beer. Rumours circulate that they offer entertainment on Saturdays. I don't go there on Saturdays.

Denison's, 75 Victoria, 360-5877

Bring extra deep pockets if you want to eat or drink here! They produce some of the best German style beers in Canada, but you have to be willing to pay for them. The bar is downstairs and the brewery is glassed in so you can see their equipment, or if you are lucky, watch the brewers at their alchemy.

Granite Brewery, 245 Eglinton East (It is actually on Mount Pleasant), 322-0723

This is the second Brewpub in the Granite chain, the original being in Halifax. An excellent selection of homebrewed beers including a Dry-hopped bitter that is to die for and an excellent Peculiar (also available now in bottles at the LCBO). Try to attend one of their theme dinner nights when a selection of most of their beers will be served with appropriate dishes.

wants to party!

This Mike is REALLY open!

By Yaron Blanc-TORONTO (CUP)

Mike Bullard puts his feet up on his desk and smiles. "I feel less pressure then I did a year ago," says the host of Canada's hottest new late night talk show.

"(CTV) pumped about \$4 million into the show, so now I can just sit back. I figure I'll get at least two years out of doing nothing."

But the suburban Toronto native has made nothing into something to talk about. In the

span of a year, his television show Open Mike with Mike Bullard has gone from a small-scale production to the most-talked-about hit of the season.

Produced by The Comedy Network, the show has become a staple on Canadian nightly airwaves. As such, it is being hailed as a first in the industry: a successful Canadian prime-time talk show. Now in its second season on CTV, Open Mike blends Bullard's off-the-cuff comedy with eclectic guests and has developed a strong following and critical praise.

That's partly because Bullard, who once worked for the Ontario Provincial Police and Bell Canada and has toured the stand-up circuit for years, brings a daring approach to a medium often criticized for its lack of innovation.

"The kind of stand-up that I did prepared me well for television," says Bullard. "It was very spontaneous, and I would never do a routine. It probably prepared me to work by the seat of my pants for that hour every night . . . it's also given me chops, and the confidence to walk out and talk to people every night."

Bullard's nightly forays into the audience, which he likes to poke fun at, are one of the show's highlights.

They also make Open Mike stand out in the formulaic world of nightly talk shows, where audience interaction is often deemed too dangerous for a medium thriving on format.

Bullard wouldn't have it any other way. "It's the only way to keep me excited," he says. "I can't stand monology; it's never been my forte. For me, the excitement is talking to a member of the audience, and I think it's the only way to change people's attitudes in this country, because people would come and do anything to avoid the front row. Now they sit there. Now they bring signs. They want me to talk to them, and that's very gratifying."

Open Mike producer Al Magee agrees Bullard's spontaneous interaction with the audience is a key ingredient in the show's success.

"Traditionally, they wouldn't do it in television because it's too risky," he says. "Nobody could get the number of laughs per minute to make that format work. Mike's so good at it that that's really all he ever did. He didn't have an act doing stand-up." However he does it, Bullard's ability to draw in viewers night after night is a huge accomplishment in an industry with a brief and pitiful talk-show history.

Previous attempts at prime-time talk shows, which often borrowed ideas from south of the border, have been largely unsuccessful. In the late-1970s, Peter Gzowski's 90 Minutes Live was nothing more than a rip-off of Johnny Carson's The Tonight Show. More recently, the early 1990s Friday night show smacked of American mimicry. Both succumbed to lack of interest by fans and critics alike. Open Mike has also introduced something new into the Canadian talk show equation: comedian hosts.

"They had never done it with a comic before, and that's the whole problem," says Bullard. "You got to do it with comedians. They did it with journalists, and you can't do it. Journalists can't be funny."

And unlike its predecessors, Open Mike doesn't seem like a reproduction of American shows. Bullard's quick wit and spontaneous improvisation techniques reflect a fresh, unrestricted design that wouldn't be allowed to flourish in the U.S. "Watch an American talk show and watch some of the things we do," says Bullard. "There's no comparison. There's a little

thing down there called standards and practices. I'd be in trouble with them every night, because there are things you don't do down there, and I'd break all the rules."

For example, U.S. nightly talk shows are shaped around a rigid system of scripted monologues, pre-taped desk bits and celebrity interviews. They also focus on promoting guests rather than generating in-depth, comedic conversation between them and the host. "They sign five-minute wenders constantly based on how they look," says Bullard. "Everything down there is based on how you look _ an empty suit with a good face."

Magee agrees.

"They're really not trying to provide live, exciting television," he says. "If they have a big-name guest on; often times they (hosts) don't always have a lot to say . . . they don't even feel compelled to entertain necessarily. It's enough that they're on the show. And here, Mike drives the show. It's about his personality at every corner." Still, the success of Open Mike seems to be creating a rare phenomenon in the Canadian entertainment business: a domestic star-system. With three to four guests on the show, which airs five nights a week, Open Mike has become the centre stage for homegrown performers and artists to spotlight their talents.

This, above all, satisfies Bullard. "We're making celebrities," he says. "To me there's nothing better. (Filmmaker) Bruce LaBruce came back the second time and said he couldn't believe how many people were walking up to him and saying they saw him on the show. To me that's great; that's what it's all about."

Ultimately, though, Bullard says Open Mike is about the viewers. "The bottom line is I don't do the show for anybody but the people who watch it," he says. "Based on the e-mails and ratings I'm really happy, because I know there's a guy out in Saskatchewan who owns a wheat farm who's watching the show, and a guy in Newfoundland who's not fishing for cod who's watching the show. And that to me is what the show's all about."

Rave drug warning!

A drug known as GHB (Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate) was originally designed to be an anaesthetic in the 1960s. Although it has limited analgesic effect, it is associated with serious side effects including seizures. The drug is listed in Canada as a controlled substance and sale is prohibited.

We have received information from participants in local raves that GHB, also known as ecstasy, liquid X, liquid E, goop, and Grievous Body Harm, is available. This drug is particularly dangerous when combined with alcohol. The Toronto Department of Public Health warn that this drugs effects can not simply be 'slept-off', that immediate medical attention is needed.

10. Velvet Jones - Colin
20. Scot Weiland - 12 Bar Blues

THE WORST ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

1. Tatiana Ali - Kiss The Sky
2. Eric Clapton - Pilgrim
3. Deep Forest - Comparsa

9. Ringo Starr - Vertical Man
10. Van Hallen - Van Hallen 3

TOP 5 SOUNDTRACKS

1. The Big Lebowski
2. Can't Hardly Wait
3. City Of Angels
4. Great Expectations
5. The X-Files

FRIENDS WE LOST THIS YEAR

- Sony Bono, 62 (singer: "I Got You Babe")
- Lloyd Bridges, 85 (actor: Hot Shots!)
- John Derek, 71 (director and husband of Bo Derek)
- Falco, 40 (singer: "Rock Me Amadeus")
- Chris Farley, 33 (actor: Saturday Night Live)
- Norman Fell, 74 (actor: Three's Company)
- Phil Hartman, 49 (actor: Saturday Night Live)
- Akira Kurosawa, 88 (director: The Seven Samurai)
- Shari Lewis, 65 (Lamb Chops Playalong)
- Jack Lord, 70 (actor: Hawaii Five-O)
- Linda McCartney, 56 (singer, wife of Paul)
- Roddy McDowall, 70 (actor: Planet Of The Apes)
- E. G. Marshall, 88 (actor: Absolute Power)
- Carl Perkins, 65 (singer: "Blue Suede Shoes")
- Rob Pilatus, 32 (singer, Milli Vanilli)
- Cozy Powell, 50 (drummer for Black Sabbath)
- Roy Rogers, 86 (popular TV cowboy)
- Frank Sinatra, 82 (singer, actor)
- J. T. Walsh, 54 (actor: The Negotiator)
- Carl Wilson, 51 (singer, Beach Boys)
- Tammy Wynette, 56 (country music singer)

The winner of our HOLIDAY ISSUE CD give away was Christine Allan from St. James she gets Cypressil IV. Congrats



4. Hole - Celebrity Skin
5. Korn - Follow The Leader
6. Brian May - Another World
7. Maestro - Built To Last
8. Mike Oldfield - Tubular Bells III

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Upcoming Events in January

Jan. 12 - Orientation Open
House at Nightingale
(10-3)
James Jones performs then
FREE PUB (12-5)
Jan 13 - Orientation Open
House at Casa Loma
(10-3)
Kim Deschamps (Blue Rodeo)
performs then FREE PUB
(12-5)
Deadline for SA Art
Competition
Jan. 14 - Orientation Open
House at St James (10-3)
Charles Morgan performs then
FREE PUB (2-5)
Jan. 18 - Politically Incorrect
at Casa Loma Lounge

Affinity credit cards come to York

By Angela Pacienza

TORONTO (CUP) — York University's alumni association and student union are the latest to ask their peers to demonstrate school pride with the swipe of a credit card.

The two groups recently signed a five-year contract with MBNA Canada, a subsidiary of the American credit card giant, to offer students and graduates MasterCard featuring York's logo.

In return for marketing MBNA cards to their members, the groups will receive a fraction of every dollar spent on the cards and money every time a new person signs on.

The deal is the latest in a growing trend of similar affinity card contracts between MBNA and student groups at Canadian universities.

Since last June, six Canadian alumni associations and two students' associations have partnered with the company, and insiders speculate at least a dozen more will follow suit. Alumni associations at the University of Manitoba, the University of Ottawa and St. Mary's University, as well as the students' society at the University of Victoria, are among the groups that have signed on with MBNA.

Supporters say the deals are an easy way for the groups to raise funds without doing a lot of work.

And at York, backers of the deal say it will make credit cards more accessible to students.

"More students are going to be eligible to get these cards," said Charles Kennedy, director of alumni affairs at York, about the contract that went into effect last week.

People with bad credit ratings will be contacted to find reasons why, and will be given lower spending limits as they build new credit, he added. Student union president Dawn Palin agrees, saying students need to build good credit

ratings for future expenditures.

"(Students) can have access to credit, whereas with other banks it may have been more difficult to get access," she said of the deal, adding MBNA will work with students to make sure debts don't skyrocket.

But contracts between MBNA and student groups have been criticized by some observers who say the credit cards may not be in students' best interest because they target low-income people who become dependent on credit.

York University Prof. Jim Savary, who researches credit cards for the Canadian Consumers Association, says the credit card isn't for everyone. For example, the 16.9 per cent interest rate offered by MBNA is not the most competitive rate and the \$2.75 charge levied on each cash advance is extremely high, he says.

"If the consumer at York uses cash advances a lot through a credit card, then it may not be a good deal even though it may be a good deal for York," he said.

Other Visa and MasterCard programs do not charge fees for cash advances. One of the largest credit-card providers in the world, MBNA has nearly 30 million cardholders in the U.S., Britain and Canada and more than 4,400 groups use its affinity cards.



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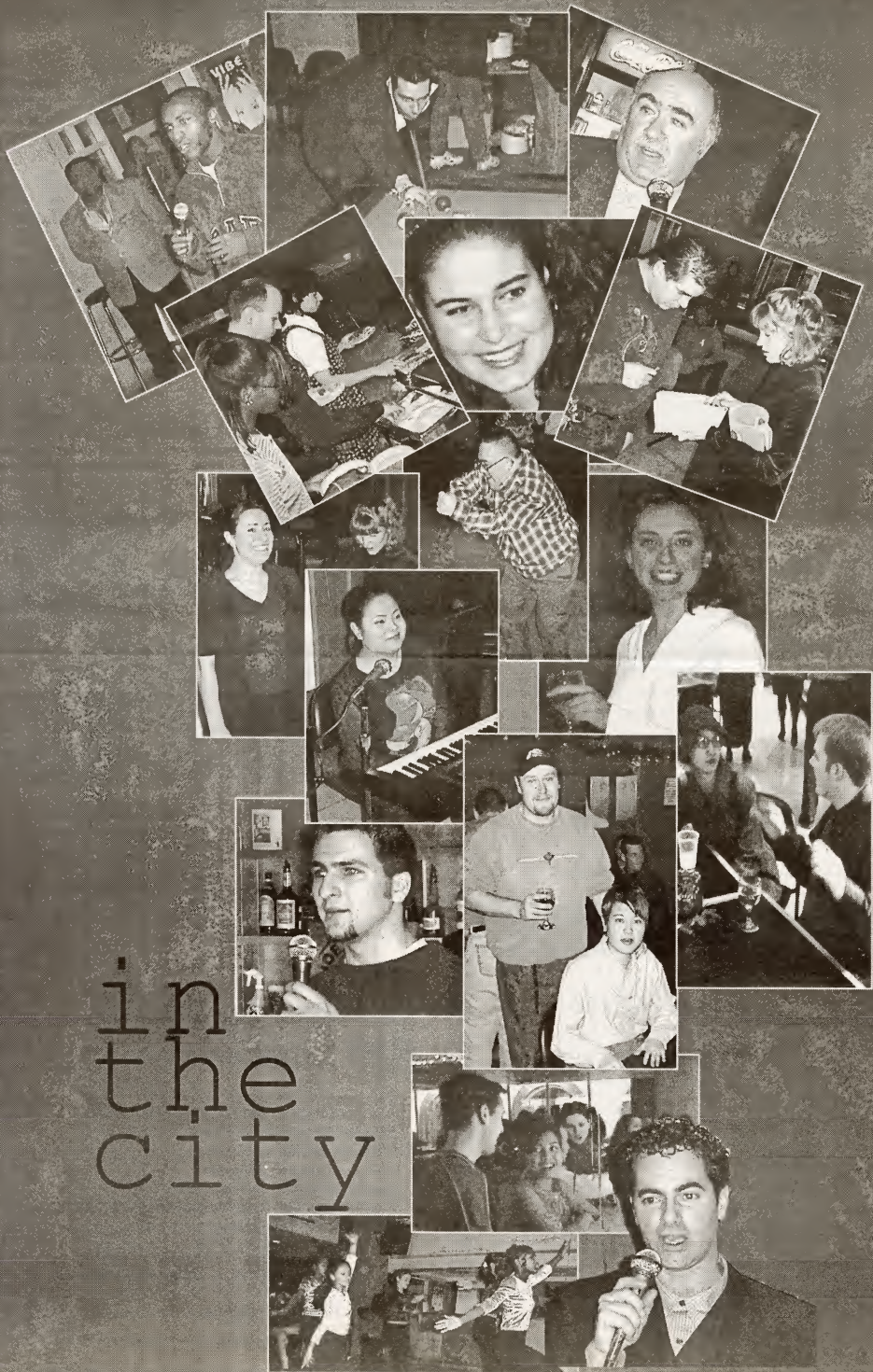
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Auditions

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620 Spadina Avenue
Thursday, January 21, 1999
Friday, January 22, 1999
12:00 - 3:00 pm Technicians, Character
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12:00 pm Children's Variety Artists,
Perfectionists
12:30 pm Singers, Actor/Announcers
2:30 pm Dancers

Vaughan, Ontario

Paramount Canada's Wonderland,
Paramount Theatre
Saturday, January 23, 1999
Sunday, January 24, 1999
12:00 - 3:00 pm Technicians, Character
and Escort Interviews
12:00 pm Children's Variety Artists,
Perfectionists
12:30 pm Singers, Actor/Announcers
2:30 pm Dancers

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Only those granted an interview will be contacted.

For more information call our Entertainment Department
Hotline at (905) 832-7454 or visit our
website at <http://auditionnow.com>

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elvisLOG

here we are in beautiful
Klaptrap, Indiana. It's day 203
of our epic journey in search
of Elvis. It's Christmas and the
snow is gently falling on a
manger out here where Orville
Redenbacher first drew a breath. Sadly the
falling snow and manger are in the
window of Ayres Department Store at the
Twin County Mall. Outside there is a
blizzard and Festis (the original highway
name for my travelling companion) is
making our motel money with his
purloined tow truck.

I'm sitting in the Starbucks trying to
decide what I'll hoist as a gift for
Christmas. Festis likes computer games,
the handheld type you can play while you
drive. We have to travel real light, cause
usually we only have room for one change
of clothes and no time for laundromats.

We've come up with an unusual system
that seems to work well for us. We have
disposable clothes. As you can imagine,
the clothes closest to your body need
replacing the most so we throw away our
underwear every few days. If you ever saw
Festis's dirty briefs you'd know why we
came up with this! This time of year, our
outer clothes last a few weeks at a time,
and pants longer than tops. Festis tells me
that this is the ultimate recycling system.

I'm getting kind of homesick for
Toronto. Around this time of year
everyone is sitting around the fake
Christmas tree in my parents apartment in
outer Scarberia. One of my many uncles,
usually the one who managed to be out of
jail for the holiday season, usually gets
very drunk and starts pissing on the dog.
The dog gets ballistic and uncle Rodney
pulls out his other rod (the one with
bullets) and fires a few rounds in the
general direction of the dog. This action
brings on the wrath of the Emergency Task
Force who raid our apartment and throw
everyone in the slammer because if they
are not possessing something illegal, they
have outstanding warrants. Ahh. Those
were the dreamy days of my youth.

Why is there someone in every family
who thinks you have some fuckin'
obligation to attend their shit-for-brains
function just so some old sot can insult
you? I have been taking this shit for 26
years and I'm about to break the mold. I'm
not going to show up in TO for the
holidays!

Just about then I realized I was shouting
all this shit out loud in the Twin County
Mall. Last minute Christmas shoppers
looked at me with disdain as I recalled my
diatribe. "Forgive me Father, for I have
sinned." I said just barely above my
breath. "How long has it been since your
last confession?" a sweet smooth voice
asked. I looked up to see a priest. He
wasn't your typical Catholic priest, cause
he had an earring and his hair was blue.
"About twenty years," I admitted. "So you
made a confession for your First
Communion and that was it?" He looked
at me with fake horror. A slapstick grin
covered his face.

"As you may have noticed," he intoned,
"I am not of the Roman church. But, let
me tell you something I have learned from
walking the aisles of the mall for the last
decade." I looked into his full grey blue
eyes. I knew I was going to love this story.
"People are greedy and selfish. They want
you to give them something, and
Christmas is no exception. This gift giving
rage is something retailers invented to sell
us more stuff. It has nothing to do with the
true meaning of Christmas. The three wise
men gave the Christ child three gifts; gold,
perfume and an ointment. Give this and no
more."

I had diverted my eyes to see the
wondrous beauty of the mall. Certainly this
was a diorama of the modern festive
season. I realized he had stopped speaking.
I looked around and he was gone. All that
was left of the priest was a gold chain with
a crooked-horn amulet, a small bottle of
perfume and some Ben-Gay liniment. My
Christmas shopping was done.

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